

Department of Correction Assists in Storm Cleanup

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J. David Donahue,
Commissioner

“The Department of Correction was one of the first agencies to offer assistance last night and they were instrumental in opening U.S. 12 during the evening hours. They also played a very important role today as we have gone about the process of opening up our streets and I look forward to their continuing support as necessary.”

Charles Oberlie,
Mayor



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Michigan City, IN – Following the severe thunderstorm and heavy winds that struck Michigan City and surrounding areas last night, Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ed Buss contacted Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue who advised Governor Daniels. When hearing of the emergency, Governor Daniels offered full support to be given by the Department of Correction to provide assistance in this time of emergency.

Staff and offenders from the Indiana State Prison, the Westville Correctional Facility, and the Medaryville Correctional Facility were detailed to this effort. Support included more than 100 people and heavy equipment to assist in cleanup efforts in Michigan City and the surrounding areas Wednesday evening. Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ed Buss called the Michigan City Police Department to see where help was needed in clearing city streets. He then activated 20 staff members which included the facility's Emergency Squad, Physical Plant personnel, and 40 minimum security offenders. Using facility equipment, staff and offenders were on the road clearing blocked streets by 9:00 p.m., and worked until 1:00 a.m.

Following a meeting today with city officials, 20 prison staff and 80 offenders returned to work clearing streets in assigned areas. Prison crews were working in Michigan City and the Town of Beverly Shores.

By this afternoon, a large crew was dispatched to Washington Park to assist in cleaning up areas that sustained heavy damage.

Superintendent Buss said, "Operation at the facility continued without interruption. I am glad we could provide this assistance to our neighbors in the community."

When Mayor Charles Oberlie was asked about the prison's assistance he said, "The Department of Correction was one of the first agencies to offer assistance last night and they were instrumental in opening U.S. 12 during the evening hours. They also played a very important role today as we have gone about the process of opening up our streets and I look forward to their continuing support as necessary."

Commissioner J. David Donahue, of the Department of Correction said, "We are pleased to assist the City during this emergency, and we will continue to provide assistance until the job is done."



About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.